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TOHAK 40

FM: R. T. KENNEDY

TO: WINSTON LORD

HOFFA-POWS

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (AP)-JAMES R. HOFFA SAYS HIS PLAN TO NEGOTIATE FOR RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR WAS STYMIED BY A PERSONALITY CONFLICT BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS AND PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY ADVISER HENRY A. KISSINGER.

HOFFA TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE MONDAY HE WAS CONFIDENT "WE COULD HAVE BROUGHT SOME PEOPLE HOME" HAD HE BEEN ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO HANOI EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE TRIP FELL THROUGH, THE FORMER TEAMSTERS UNION PRESIDENT SAID, WHEN "ROGERS SAW FIT TO CANCEL MY PASSPORT."

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

HOFFA SAID HE HAD RECEIVED AN UNWRITTEN PROMISE THAT, HAD HE GONE TO HANOI, SOME POWS WOULD HAVE BEEN FREED. HE WAS COOPERATING WITH KISSINGER IN TRYING TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS, HE SAID, WHEN ROGERS REVOKED HIS PASSPORT.

"WE ARE WORKING WITH KISSINGER," HOFFA SAID. "ROGERS FOUND OUT AND DISRUPTED IT."

HOFFA WAS IN MINNEAPOLIS TO ADDRESS A DINNER OF AMICUS, AN ORGANIZATION SEEKING TO AID PRISON INMATES AND FORMER INMATES. HE HAD SERVED 58 MONTHS OF A 13-YEAR SENTENCE FOR JURY TAMPERING WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON COMMUTED HIS SENTENCE A YEAR AGO.

SR-CA1032 AES 12/5

WASHINGTON (AP)- SECRETARY OF COMMERCE PETER G. PETERSON WILL LEAVE HIS CURRENT POSITION SOME TIME IN JANUARY TO TAKE OVER A NEW GOVERNMENT COUNCIL IN CHARGE OF ALL U.S. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, IT WAS LEARNED TODAY.

SOURCES SAID THE DETAILS OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE COMPARABLE TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT. BUT THEY SAID AT A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PETERSON WILL BE CHANGING JOBS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE SOURCES SAID THE CHANGE HAS BEEN IN THE CARDS FOR PETERSON FOR SOME TIME SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED IT WANTED TO REORGANIZE THE WAY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY IS HANDLED.

PETERSON, A ONE-TIME BOY WONDER OF BUSINESS, WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF COMMERCE LESS THAN A YEAR AGO WHEN HE SUCCEEDED MAURICE STANS, BEFORE THAT PETERSON SERVED AS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

SINCE TAKING OVER THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, THE KEARNEY, NEB., NATIVD HAS ASSUMED INCREASINGLY GREATER AUTHORITY IN TRADE MATTERS AND SPECULATION HAS GROWN THAT HE WAS DRIVING FOR MORE POWER IN INTERNATPONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

THE SOURCES INDICATED PETERSON WOULD HEAD A NEW TEAM IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS, BUT THEY SAID THE MEMBERSHIP HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED. THIS IS ONE OF THE DETAILS THAT NEEDS TO BE WORKED OUT, THEY SAID.

EARLIER IT WAS REPORTED THAT NIXON HAS CHOSEN UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE JAMES T. LYNN AS HIS NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

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